

highest it has been during this administration. So filling up the minivan is now a costly chore for mothers and fathers as they proceed to work and take their kids to soccer practice. But there is no one there taking credit for the oil policy of this administration.

Today, the stock market is down 200 points, largely because of energy prices; and I do not hear anybody taking credit for that. The administration has the Energy Department. One would think they would figure out a response. Yet they can only accuse the other side of the aisle and our presidential nominee, that they are tied to big oil. Maybe they should stand up and say at least we can figure out an energy policy that will be good for America; that may bring down the cost of fuel for the consumers of America.

This robust economy that we understand that they have taken full credit for for the last 8 years may in fact be in a decline because of energy prices. It is insidious. It affects transportation; it affects heating bills. Wait until this winter, when we talk about the political dynamics of choosing food and medicine. We now have to choose between food, medicine and fuel, heating oil for our homes.

So I would just like it, if we are going to start embellishing rhetoric, creating facts, making up names, inserting foot in mouth, that at least somebody come to this floor and address the voters and taxpayers of this Nation as to where we are going with our energy policy. It is getting very difficult because those who are making the energy policy do not fill up their own tanks, so they do not feel the pain. They do not feel the pain when we reach into our wallets each week and pull out those precious dollars in order to keep our lives going forward and filling our vehicles with gasoline.

So, today, as we proceed to continue discussing appropriations items and the future of this Congress and the direction of our Nation, I do again urge the Vice President to please at least stick to the script and stick to the straight facts. I would hope he would not create and embellish names and drugs that are being taken by his family, which may or may not be true.

The American public deserves the truth. They deserve to know the facts. They need to know exactly where we are going on a prescription drug policy. We do not need to bring in Fido and the rest of the family to make a point. It was fraudulent, it was false, it was demeaning, it was misleading, and it was done in Florida, in a State where seniors are looking for honesty and decisions rather than fraudulent statements.

#### BORN ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it was not long ago we were all scratching our heads wondering how anyone could ask what the meaning of "is" is.

Words have plain meanings, or at least they used to. And while many of us laughed about the President's confusion, this kind of semantic game has become a matter of life and death for many newborns because many in the abortion industry are trying to convince us that even after a child is born, even if he or she is born healthy, the child is not really a person. They claim the baby has no rights or legal protections, or even the right to live. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third District has gone so far as to rule in favor of this outrageous position.

This is yet another example of a group of radical judges turning kooky ideas into law through a fiat that the Constitution does not entitle them to.

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In the case of Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey v. Farmer, the court ruled that it was "nonsensical for a State legislature to conclude that an infant's location in or outside the mother's womb has any relevance in deciding if the child may be killed. The Court decided that all that matters is whether or not the mother intended to have an abortion, even if it was a partial-birth abortion, which most Americans think is murder."

In other words, if a child is born alive because a doctor has induced labor as part of an abortion procedure, regardless of how late in the pregnancy, the child still may be killed. It does not matter how healthy the baby is or how loudly it cries. Once the mother decides to abort her child, it makes no difference how the baby exits the womb, we may still kill the child with impunity.

Mr. Speaker, how on Earth can we claim to be a civilized nation when we are killing living, breathing children and calling it legal?

I would like to read a portion of the testimony Jill Stanek gave back in July during the hearings on the Born Alive Infants Protection Act. Jill is a nurse that worked in a hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Her hospital, which, I am embarrassed to say, is called Christ Hospital, performs abortions for women even in their second and third trimester.

Jill says that babies at that hospital sometimes survive the abortion procedure. These babies want to live, but the hospital lets them die anyway. Here is a little bit of her story.

"In the event that a baby is aborted alive, he or she receives no medical assessments or care but is only given what my hospital calls 'comfort care.' 'Comfort care' is defined as keeping the baby warm in a blanket until he or she

dies, although even this minimal compassion is not always provided. It is not required that these babies be held during their short lives.

"One night, a nursing coworker was taking an aborted Down's syndrome baby who was born alive to our Soiled Utility Room because his parents did not want to hold him, and she did not have time to hold him. I could not bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone in a Soiled Utility Room, so I cradled and rocked him for the 45 minutes that he lived. He was 21 to 22 weeks old, weighed a half pound, and was about 10 inches long. He was too weak to move very much, expending any energy he had trying to breathe. Toward the end he was so quiet that I could not tell if he was still alive unless I held him up to the light to see if his heart was still beating through his chest wall. After he was pronounced dead, we folded his little arms across his chest, wrapped him in a tiny shroud, carried him to the hospital morgue where all of our dead patients are taken.

"Other co-workers have told me many upsetting stories about live aborted babies whom they have cared for."

And there is much more.

Jill's story should horrify every American. We must decide are we a civilized nation or will barbaric practices like this continue.

I urge my colleagues to support the Born Alive Victims Protection Act. Let the American people know that we still know what decency means.

#### CARIBBEAN AMNESTY AND RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to announce that I have introduced H.R. 5032, which is the Caribbean Amnesty and Relief Act.

The act originally applied to people from the English-speaking Caribbean nations, but we have now expanded it to apply to people from all nations in the Caribbean.

Because of the close proximity of the Caribbean to the United States, there really is indeed a special relationship between our country and the Caribbean. And we have many, many people who have come to our shores and who want to come to our shores who immigrate to this country for the same reasons that my grandparents immigrated at the turn of the last century many, many years ago, wanting a better life for themselves and wanting a better life for their families; and, in doing so, they create a better life for all Americans.

Let us look at the kind of American who immigrates to this country. It is